

# **APPENDIX**

## CERTIFICATIONS

The State of Alaska will operate a program to provide Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) so that the children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives; to end dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage; to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies; and encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

This program is known as ATAP or **Alaska Temporary Assistance Program**.

In administering and operating a program which provides Temporary Assistance for Needy Families with minor children under title IV-A of the Social Security Act, the Governor of Alaska, Governor Sarah Palin, hereby certifies:

- The Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Assistance, is the agency responsible for administering the ATAP program in Alaska.
- Local governments and private sector organizations have been consulted regarding the plan and design of welfare services in Alaska so that services are provided in a manner appropriate to local populations; and these organizations have been provided a 45 day comment period. This period extended from November 2 to December 16 during which time comments on the plan and service design were accepted.
- Alaska will operate a Child Support Enforcement program under the state plan approved under part D.
- Alaska will operate a Foster Care and Adoption Assistance program in accordance with part E, and will take all necessary actions to ensure that children receiving assistance are eligible for medical assistance under title XIX of the Social Security Act;
- Alaska will provide each member of an Indian Tribe who is domiciled in the state and is not eligible for assistance under a Tribal Family Assistance plan approved under Section 412, with equitable access to assistance under the state program funded under this part attributable to funds provided by the federal government.
- Alaska has established and enforces standards and procedures to ensure against program fraud and abuse, including standards and procedures concerning nepotism, conflicts of interest among individuals responsible for the administration and supervision of the state program, kickbacks, and the use of political patronage.
- The state plan is available to the public.

- Alaska will screen for and identify individuals receiving assistance under this part with a history of domestic violence while maintaining the confidentiality of such individuals and refer such individuals to counseling and supportive services. Furthermore, the state will waive, pursuant to a determination of good cause, other program requirements such as time limits (for as long as necessary) for individuals receiving assistance, residency requirements, child support cooperation requirements, and family cap provisions, in cases where compliance with such requirements would make it more difficult for individuals receiving assistance under this part to escape domestic violence or unfairly penalize such individuals who are or have been victimized by such violence, or individuals who are at risk of further domestic violence.

**CERTIFIED BY THE GOVERNOR OF ALASKA:**

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Sarah Palin, Governor

Date

## FUNDING

Section 403(a)(1)(A) provides that each eligible state shall be entitled to receive for each of the fiscal years 1996 through 2002, a grant in an amount equal to the state family assistance grant as defined in section 403(a)(1)(B).

I. Payments to Agency Administering the TANF Program

Payments for the TANF program will be made to the organization managing the AFDC/JOBS programs as of August 22, 1996. This organization is the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Assistance.

II. State Payments for TANF Program

Section 405 requires that grants be paid to states in quarterly installments, based on state estimates. The state's estimate for each quarter of the fiscal year by percentage is:

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
25%	25%	25%	25%

GOVERNORS OFFICE LETTERHEAD

December 17, 2007

Sidonie Squier, Director  
Office of Family Assistance  
Administration for Children and Families  
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Director Squier:

This letter is to notify you of Alaska's intent to opt out of the community service employment provision of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 found in Part A, Section 402(a)(1)(B)(iv). This provision relates to requiring a parent or caretaker relative, who is not exempt from work activities or engaged in work, to participate in community service employment after receiving two months of assistance funded by the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant.

We recognize community service employment can be a valuable tool in gaining self-sufficiency, and we believe in counting the time a recipient spends participating in approved community service activities. We do not intend, however, to require or approve community service employment as a primary activity, unless placement in nonsubsidized employment or other activity leading quickly to employment is not feasible.

The overall goal of the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program is twofold: move Alaskans from welfare into jobs so they can support their families, and maintain a safety net for children in need. To accomplish the former goal, we intend to focus our resources on helping recipients move into jobs as soon as possible. We believe it is counterproductive to incur the additional costs necessary to run a community service employment program of the size necessary to support the provisions of this option.

Sincerely,

Sarah Palin  
Governor